

MAR 15 2007

Remarks

In the instant application, claims 1-12 are pending. New claims 11 and 12 have been added. The claims of the instant application are subject to a restriction requirement. The Office contends that the claims may be divided into the following three groupings:

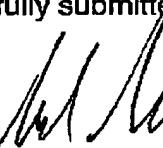
- Group I: Claims 1-10, those which are drawn to dicarboxylic acids that do not bear a heteroaryl ring;
- Group II: Claims 1-10, those which are drawn to dicarboxylic acids that bear a thiophene ring as the only heteroring; and
- Group III: Claims 1-10, those of which are drawn to dicarboxylic acids that bear a heteroaryl ring other than thiophene.

The Applicants hereby elect the Group II with traverse. Further, the Applicants elect as a species dicarboxylic acids that bear a thiophene ring as the only heteroring. The claims that read on this species are claims 1-12.

It is respectfully submitted that the search classification for each invention group substantially overlap. For example, the Office Action does not indicate that a search for all of the subject matter of the cited groups would even require a search of different classes/subclasses. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that such a search can be performed concurrently and the Office will not be seriously burdened by searching and considering the Inventions as described in the presently filed claims. For instance, a search processes for the thermal decarboxylation of dicarboxylic acids would require a search by the Office covering all the subject matter of the instant claims, including all of the subject matter of the Groups set forth in the Office Action. As such, the Office would be no more burdened than to search only a particular species. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

By this election, Applicants do not admit, nor do Applicants waive the right to argue against the Office's statement that the groups of inventions are patentably distinct at a later date. Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the claims of Groups I – III, or other claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

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